

## **The Louisiana Urban Stormwater Coalition**

**Concern about the rate of development of Urban Stormwater Programs by Small MS4 permit holders in Louisiana has prompted the formation of The Louisiana Urban Stormwater Coalition by representatives of some of the permit holders. Working with leadership from the EPA Region VI Enforcement Division and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, representatives of active Small MS4 programs in Louisiana have met and agreed to form this self-help coalition. Local coordination and leadership is provided by Dr. Rod Hendrick, Water Quality Specialist and Professor with the LSU AgCenter.**

**Membership in the Coalition is open to all of the MS4s in the state, large and small. Associate memberships are available to consultants, suppliers and others interested in or involved in Stormwater management or protection. This is the first statewide organization of its kind in the nation according to EPA.**

**Coalition goals are to assist members in the achievement of the Urban Stormwater Programs goals and to facilitate compliance with the permit requirements through sharing information, ideas, and techniques among the members. Having a locally organized educational organization, whose programs are targeted to the needs of the members, will allow attention to be focused on those issues of most local concern. With its hot humid climate, long growing seasons, low topographic relief, and high annual rainfall with frequent torrential rains, Louisiana has unique conditions not found in other areas of the country. Hurricanes, storm surges, high rates of coastal subsidence, and wetland loss contribute to unique flooding scenarios. Having the ability to focus the skills, knowledge, and experience of the stormwater managers and engineers statewide on these common problems cannot help but promote the development of innovative solutions to the problems more quickly and more effectively.**

**The Coalition will promote collaboration among stormwater managers, educators, engineers, landscape architects, planners, and regulators to develop solutions that maximize return on investment of time, effort, and funds. It will also provide small towns with small staffs and budgets access to effective solutions developed by larger municipalities with common problems. This network will foster rapid development, distribution, and acceptance of custom solutions applicable to Louisiana.**

**Educational materials, forms, and procedures developed by members, EPA, LDEQ, LSU AgCenter, and other educational sources will be collected and made available on the LSU AgCenter Urban Stormwater webpage until the establishment of the Coalition's webpage. Educational and training materials will be available to Coalition members from the web page for downloading, personalization, and use. The webpage will facilitate information dissemination between group meetings.**

**The first full meeting of the Coalition will be held October 9, 2009 in the Pineville Main Street Community Center at 708 Main Street, Pineville, Louisiana. The meeting will begin at 8:00 am and will end at 4:30 pm that afternoon. The meeting will serve as both an organizational with speakers on the function and role of the Coalition and selection of officers and the Board of Directors and sessions devoted to how to deal with tracking the construction stormwater program, TMDL and MS4 requirements, post construction issues, and watershed analysis tools. Exhibitor space is available. More information and registration details can be obtained from: Dr. Rodney Hendrick, LSU AgCenter at 225-578-6998 or by e-mail at [rhendrick@agctr.lsu.edu](mailto:rhendrick@agctr.lsu.edu) .**

**The Coalition Team Evaluation program will be highly beneficial because it will provide members an independent outside review of their program without fear of penalty. Programs inspected and certified complete by the Coalition Teams as being in compliance with permit program requirements will be able to demonstrate to their citizens that they are operating in compliance with Federal and state rules.**

**The Coalition Steering Committee consists of:**

**Dr. Rodney Hendrick, Professor and Water Quality Specialist, LSU AgCenter, Committee Chair;  
Dr. Elizabeth deEte Smythe, Director of Engineering-St. Tammany Parish;  
Sabrina Schenk; Watershed Coordinator and MS4 Administrator St. Tammany Parish  
Ann Wilson, Environmental Services-City of Alexandria;  
Barbara Monroe, Senior Environmental Specialist, Calcasieu Parish Police Jury;  
Wes Wyche, Environmental Affairs Manager, City of Shreveport;  
Doris Flournoy-Woods, Stormwater Supervisor, City of Shreveport;  
Bess Foret, Regulatory Compliance Supervisor, Lafayette Consolidated Government  
Dana Nunez Brown, ASLA, AICP, LEED AP, Landscape Architect, Brown+ Danos landdesign;  
Linda Gauthier, Water Permits, LDEQ;  
Ron Gray, Enforcement, LDEQ;  
Thea Lomax, Stormwater Enforcement Supervisor for Louisiana, EPA Region VI.**